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Leadership

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School and Community

Lodestar, a Lighthouse Community Public School, is a tuition-free, public school committed to preparing every student for college and the career of their choice. Lodestar currently serves approximately 750 students in grades K-12, including 230 high school students in grades 9 – 12. Lodestar is Oakland's newest high school and graduated its first class of seniors in 2024.

Students and Families

Students who attend Lodestar come from predominantly immigrant neighborhoods characterized by high unemployment, poverty, linguistic isolation, and low educational attainment rates. Recent data shows that about 21% of Oakland's high school students drop out before they reach graduation. Of those who make it to graduation, only 43% have taken the coursework to be eligible to continue their education in four-year colleges and universities. Lodestar exists to counter these grave trends.¹

Faculty

Individually and collectively, Lodestar teachers are a distinguished and passionate team of professionals equipped with the knowledge, skills and character to ensure that all of our students have access to a rigorous and engaging college-preparatory education. More than half of our teachers and leaders identify as people of color.

Statistics and Demographics

The Lodestar educational program is set up to serve these students who face great obstacles in their pursuit of an excellent and equitable education. Of its students,

- 92% qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch and
- 45% are English Language Learners
- 13% receive special education services
- 3% are unhoused

The students of Lodestar also represent the ethnic diversity of Oakland's neighborhoods.

The composition of the student body is:

- 72% Latino
- 5% Asian
- 11% African-American
- 3% White
- 9% Other or Multiracial

Outcomes: 2024 was Lodestar's first graduating class. Here are some of the noteworthy accomplishments from this initial group of graduates:

- A-G completion rate above 90%
- More than 90% of graduates were accepted to a college or university
- More than 90% of students will be the first in their family to earn a college degree

Graduation Requirements

The table below outlines the graduation requirements at Lodestar along with sample course offerings in all major subject areas.

Subject Area	Sample Course Requirements	Years Required
A. Social Science	Ethnic Studies AP World History AP U.S. History Honors U.S. Gov & Econ Latin American History	3
B. English	English 9 English 10 English 11 English 12 ELD 1-4 Writing Seminar African American Lit	4
C. Mathematics	Integrated Math 1 Integrated Math 2 Integrated Math 3 Honors Pre-Calc	3
D. Lab Sciences	Physics Biology Chemistry Honors Environmental Science Honors Anatomy & Physiology	3
E. Foreign Language	Spanish for Native Speakers 1 Spanish 1 Spanish 2 Spanish 3 Honors AP Spanish	2
F. Visual & Perf. Arts	Intro to Media Arts Film/Video Production Documentary Film Advanced Media Arts Digital Photo Screenwriting	1
G. Other Electives	Writing Seminar Dual Enrollment Classes (1-2 classes per semester)	1

Academic Program

In order to prepare all of its students for college and the career of their choice, Lodestar offers a rigorous, engaging, and innovative college preparatory curriculum.

Learning experiences at Lodestar provide students with the opportunity to apply their knowledge of key academic concepts and content in meaningful ways while developing strong habits of mind and heart. Students are held to high academic expectations in all classes through a series of internal assessment measures including grades, portfolios, presentations, and interviews.

Courses at Lodestar are designed to meet the California state standards and earn the approval of the University of California Regents. Lodestar is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

Advanced Placement, Honors and College Classes

As a school of limited size and resources and where curricular depth is prioritized over breadth, Lodestar offers a limited number of AP classes. These include: AP World History AP US History, AP Spanish and Culture, and AP Environmental Science. Lodestar also offers Honors classes in Government/Econ, Anatomy, Spanish and Pre Calculus. Additionally, Lodestar has a robust dual-enrollment program where students can take college classes on our campus.

Dual Enrollment

In partnership with the Peralta Community College District and Chabot College, Lodestar offers students the opportunity to take college classes on our campus. These classes, taught by actual college professors, range in subject from Mythology to Psychology, allowing students to explore different academic disciplines, experience different instructional methodologies and expectations, and prepare for the academic rigors of college.

Media Arts Pathway

The Media Arts Pathway at Lodestar High sparks creativity, empowers students to elevate their voices, and opens doors to future opportunities. Through a series of courses and hands-on experiences, students develop problem-solving, critical thinking, and technical skills that help them learn and grow academically, personally, and professionally.



Lodestar Media Arts students at work



“As a senior at Lodestar, I was able to apply to 8 colleges, getting accepted into almost all of them. I was also able to apply to many scholarships and gain insight into what I really want to do in the future” - Helen Lopez, Class of 2024

College Going Culture

Lodestar is intent on ensuring that all of its students will attend some college after they graduate. In addition to our college preparatory curriculum, Lodestar also provides full-time college and career counseling services, academic mentoring for current students and graduates, and an ongoing commitment to find programs and opportunities that enhance our students' ability to gain admission into college and thrive once there.

Grade Distribution

Lodestar does not rank its students. As a small, community oriented school, we are concerned that such rankings adversely impact relationships and do not accurately reflect the potential of each of our students. In lieu of class rank, we have provided some basic information about grade distribution among our graduating seniors in the table below:

Results

Here are some statistics from Lodestar's first graduating class, the class of 2024 :

- 36% of students enrolled in 4-year colleges, including colleges in the UC, CSU, and HBCU systems.
- 40% of students enrolled in community college
- 14% of students enrolled in career training programs
- 10% of students went straight to work

Grading System

Lodestar employs a standards-based grading system that promotes understanding and helps students become leaders of their own learning by communicating to them exactly where they are in their progress towards concrete goals. It is also important to note that Lodestar is on a year-round grading system where students earn one grade per year in each class.

